

Serial No.: 09/757,361
Examiner: Christine Y. Ng

In the claims:

1. (previously presented) A packet switching controller comprising:
 - an input for receiving a packet;
 - a policing element for classifying the packet into a plurality of policeable groups, wherein the packet is compared against one or more bandwidth contracts defined for the policeable groups to produce one or more policing results; and
 - further wherein the policing element includes a policing database, a first policeable group identifier is applied to the policing database to retrieve first policing data and a second policeable group identifier, the first policing data is applied to produce a first policing result, the second policeable group identifier is applied to the policing database to retrieve second policing data, and the second policing data is applied to produce a second policing result; and
 - a disposition engine for making a disposition decision for the packet, wherein the policing results include one or more disposition recommendations, and the disposition engine uses the policing results and at least one other disposition recommendation to make the disposition decision for the packet.

2 - 3. (canceled)

4. (original) The packet switching controller of claim 1 wherein the policing results are combined into a single result by taking a worst case policing result.

5 - 17. (canceled)

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18. (original) A method for policing a data packet received by a data communication switch, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a policing database including a plurality of policing data entries
specifying policing data for a plurality of policeable groups;
applying a first identifier for retrieving a first policing data associated with a first policeable group and a second identifier identifying a second policeable group;
applying the first policing data to produce a first policing result;
applying the second identifier for retrieving a second policing data;
applying the second policing data to produce a second policing result; and
recommending a disposition of the data packet from the first and second policing results.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein a particular policeable group identifies a type of application to be policed.

20. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the policing data includes information on bandwidth constraints specified for the policeable group.

21. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the policing results indicate whether the data packet is to be forwarded.

22. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the policing results indicate whether the data packet is eligible to be dropped.

23. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the policing results indicate whether the data packet is to be dropped.

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24. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of recommending a disposition comprises the step of combining the first and second policing results to make a recommendation.

25. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of recommending a disposition further comprises selecting either the first or second policing result as the recommended disposition.

26. (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of updating the first or second policing data based on the recommended disposition.

27 - 32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) A packet switching controller comprising:
an input for receiving a packet;
a policing element for classifying the packet into a plurality of policeable groups, wherein the packet is compared against one or more bandwidths defined for the policeable groups to produce one or more policing results;
and further wherein the policing element includes a policing database, a first policeable group identifier is applied to the policing database to retrieve first policing data and a second policeable group identifier, the first policing data is applied to produce a first policing result, the second policeable group identifier is applied to the policing database to retrieve second policing data, and the second policing data is applied to produce a second policing result;
and
a disposition engine for making a disposition decision for the packet, wherein the policing results include one or more disposition recommendations, and the disposition engine uses the policing results and at least one other disposition recommendation to make the disposition decision for the packet.

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34 - 35. (canceled)

36. (previously presented) The packet switching controller of claim 33 wherein the policing results are combined into a single result by taking a worst case policing result.

37 - 42. (canceled)